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## EDITORIAL

We welcome your stories and story tips. If supplying photographs we require high resolution (a minimum of 1MB) jpgs. Please note that due to occasional space constraints, sports results/draws may not be published.

Please contact the editorial team

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### LETTER & THUMBS RULES

No letters to the Editor or Thumbs Up/Down will be published unless the name of writer, full address and daytime contact phone number are included for verification. **Nom-de-plumes/pen names will not be accepted.** Letters and Thumbs Up/Down are published at the editor's discretion and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Waitomo News. In general, Thumbs Up are to acknowledge random acts of kindness by individuals while Thumbs Down generally reflect the opposite – they should be 50 words or less. Should you have a complaint regarding a business, please address that with the owner/s rather than via these columns. The editor reserves the right to abridge all contributions and letters should be no longer than 300 words. Letters and Thumbs Up/Down can be sent to The Editor, Waitomo News, PO Box 279, Te Kuiti, fax (07) 878 1187, or email editor@waitomonews.co.nz

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# Ammon leaves role

FORMER Waitomo mayor Mark Ammon has resigned from his latest council role as a part-time pound keeper.

After two years in the job, the 67-year-old says his decision to stand down (from March 31) was to free up more family time and focus on other jobs he had been putting off.

Mr Ammon says it was a rewarding role that had its challenges but he took great pleasure in re-homing unloved animals.

Although there were downsides such as euthanising dogs, he says finding unclaimed/unwanted dogs a loving home was certainly rewarding.

However, it was the effort of doing this which eventually took its toll.

Of his own choice and in his own time, he would sometimes travel as far as Whanganui, Hamilton and Rotorua to rehome animals.

“In the two years I was there I found homes for about 85 dogs and 45 puppies,” he says.

“A lot of the times that was through rescue organisations and sometimes directly myself.

“It was certainly an experience with many highlights, but it wasn't always enjoyable because there are some dogs that just had to be put

down and that is never nice.”

Mr Ammon says he has supplied the council with all his re-homing and rescue organisation contacts for future use.

“It's been good meeting people [in other areas] who are committed to work like this and I did have one or two really good successes of my own,” he says.

“But now I'll have a bit more time to catch up on all the jobs I hadn't done for the past two years around home here in Te Kuiti and in Marokopa.”

## POSITION VACANT

Waitomo District Council (WDC) communications officer Kelly Marriott says the council maintains two part-time pound keepers and that the day-to-day upkeep of the pound is part of its wider animal control service.

“Council is very mindful of keeping the community informed and engaging with the community generally.

“If there was the potential for some change in service provision then WDC would canvass that with its community. As it stands, it is business as usual for us.”

The council has yet to fill the vacant position.



**RESIGNED:** Mark Ammon from Te Kuiti has resigned from his role as a Waitomo District Council pound keeper to spend more time with family. FILE PIC

## THUMBS UP/DOWN



**THUMBS UP** to the Piopio, Te Kuiti and Mokau rural delivery businesses for the wonderful community services they run. You are most appreciated.  
*Waitanguru & Districts  
Rural Women, Piopio*

**THUMBS UP** – *Calendar Girls* – On-Stage Te Kuiti's latest production on now at The Little Theatre is an awesome show. Lots of LOL moments . . . we have some very talented people out there, congrats to all involved including the Pink Ribbon girls who were raising money and awareness of breast cancer at Tuesday's opening night – you girls rock!  
*Zenna Boroevich  
Te Kuiti*

**THUMBS UP** to Mark & Heidi Brittenden at Te Kuiti New World for their support of Te Kuiti High School's netball fundraising. Your help is very much appreciated.  
*Samantha Scheyvens  
TKHS Netball*

## IN BRIEF

### Clarification

IN Tuesday's story (April 12) about Waitomo farmers Warren and Cindy Clayton-Greene, it's important to note the couple were the Waikato regional winners of the 2016 Ballance Farm Environment Beef + Lamb New Zealand Livestock Award.

### Sheep award entries open

NEW ZEALAND'S sheep industry will celebrate its best and brightest at Beef +Lamb New Zealand's fifth annual New Zealand Sheep Industry Awards in July. Entries are now open for the awards which recognise this country's top sheep farmers, breeders, scientists and industry innovators. People can put their name forward, or be nominated for the award categories – Science Trainer of the Year, Innovation, Significant Contribution to the New Zealand Sheep Industry and the Emerging Talent Award. But you need

to be quick. Entries close on Friday, April 22.

For more information, and/or to enter, visit the website – [beeflambnz.com/news-events/events-calendar/sheep-industry-awards](http://beeflambnz.com/news-events/events-calendar/sheep-industry-awards)

### Kawhia bar safety

THE Kawhia bar can be very tricky, so if you're new to the area and planning to head out of Kawhia for some deep sea fishing, it might be a good idea to attend the Coastguard bar day at the Kawhia Boating & Angling Club on April 24. There's a free presentation covering bar safety and local area knowledge. The Coastguard will then run a number of trips over the bar aboard Raglan Coastguard Rescue's vessel *Gallagher Rescue*. Check in from 9am for a 9.30am start. There is a charge for the bar trip. For more information or to register, visit the website – [coastguard.org.nz/event](http://coastguard.org.nz/event)

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